

### Bush urges quick approval of homeland security plan

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President Bush used a science fair-like tour of Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County Monday to try to prod Congress into quickly passing his homeland security plan without too much tinkering.

"It's important for people to understand, especially in Washington, this Department of Homeland Security is not a good Republican idea, it's not a good Democrat idea, it's simply an American idea, and they need to get their work done," said Bush, speaking to about 2,500 federal workers in conditions so sweltering that even he took off his suit jacket.

Bush's sixth visit to Illinois since losing the state in the 2000 election comes as Congress is considering his request to create a Homeland Security Department. The plan is a major reorganization of federal government to better position the nation's law enforcement and prevention efforts in the war on terrorism.

Bush won a victory Friday when a House panel forwarded his plan for consideration and U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Yorkville said a vote will take place later this week. The measure seems to be building momentum in the House, with the key question being how much both parties will move to tweak Bush's plan to their liking.

Among seven suburban congressmen, for example, only one likely will vote against Bush's plan when it comes up for a vote on Thursday or Friday.

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, an Evanston Democrat whose new district includes Des Plaines, has concerns that the measure fails to provide civil service protections for federal workers and provides immunity from lawsuits to manufacturers of new checked baggage screeners that will go in all major airports.

"We want to make sure consumers have a right to take a company to court if its product is faulty," Schakowsky spokesman Nadeam Elshami said.

But Congressman Mark Kirk, a Highland Park Republican, said most of the suggested changes to the plan are from "several old bulls" seeking to preserve their authority as committee chairmen.

"We should protect America's turf, not Congress'," said Kirk, who flew back to the capital with Bush on Air Force One along with U.S. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald of Inverness and U.S. Rep. Judy

Biggert of Hinsdale.

Biggert and Congressman Henry Hyde, a Wood Dale Republican, also plan to support Bush's plan.

Before his 23-minute speech, Bush toured a half-dozen exhibits set up for him in an Argonne building, with some of the government's top scientists showing off their work for the president. Argonne officials said about 20 percent of the research at the lab now is devoted to using science to come up with technology to protect from terrorist attack.

One display featured a hand-held machine that detects poisonous gas or anthrax. The units could be ready to be installed in public buildings like smoke alarms are within three to five years, said Harvey Drucker, Argonne's coordinator of national security research.

Another display showed a computer simulation of what might happen to natural gas supplies or phone service if electricity went out. A third displayed equipment held in a backpack that allows technicians to search for nuclear material and dirty bombs around a city.

"(Argonne) is the home of some of America's greatest scientists, who continue to dazzle the world with astonishing breakthroughs," said Bush, whose plan would funnel more money to Argonne for such research.

Bush's visit also set up an awkward situation for invited guests Republican Gov. George Ryan and Attorney General Jim Ryan, the Republican governor nominee who has called on the governor to tell what he knows about corruption in his regime or resign.

The two politicians kept a respectful distance from one another at Argonne, but later Jim Ryan called on the governor to "stop stalling and sign" the attorney general's state anti-terrorism law approved by lawmakers. A governor's spokeswoman said the measure is under review and pointed out the deadline is Aug. 24.

Bush, who largely avoided partisanship on the trip, would say only "we're going to win the governor's race."